

BASICS OF JAPANESE GRAMMAR ©2005

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Japanese Writing:

There are three kinds of Scripts:

1. Hiragana - syllabic alphabet consisting of 46 characters
2. Katakana - syllabic alphabet consisting of 46 characters (same sounds as hiragana)
3. Kanji - Chinese ideographic characters. Kanji can have a Japanese pronunciation, and/or a Chinese pronunciation which is used instead of the Japanese depending on the word that it is in.

Japanese Syllables:

Japanese has 113 syllables with which words can be made. These syllables are called **Mora**. They are the following:

a	i	u	e	o	
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	kya kyu kyo
ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gya gyū gyo (hard g)
ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gya gyū gyo (soft nasal g)
sa	si	su	se	so	sha shu sho
za	zi	zu	ze	zo	zya zyū zyo
ta	ti	tu	te	to	tya tyū tyo
da	-	-	de	do	- - -
na	ni	nu	ne	no	nya nyū nyo
ha	hi	hu	he	ho	hya hyū hyo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po	pya pyū pyo
ba	bi	bu	be	bo	bya byū byo
ma	mi	mu	me	mo	mya myū myo
ya	-	yu	-	yo	- - -
ra	ri	ru	re	ro	rya ryū ryo
wa	-	-	-	(wo)	
k	s	p	t	n	

Hiragana Script:

あa	いi	うu	えe	おo
かka	きki	くku	けke	こko
さsa	しsi	すsu	せse	そso
たta	ちti	つtu	てte	とto
なna	にni	ぬnu	ねne	のno
はha	ひhi	ふfu	へhe	ほho
まma	みmi	むmu	めme	もmo
やya		ゆyu		よyo
らra	りri	るru	れre	ろro
わwa		をwo		
んn				

Creating other syllables with Hiragana:

Using: かka きki くku けke こko

We create: がga ぎgi ぐgu げge ごgo

This creates both the hard G and the soft nasal G. Distinction is only in speaking, not in writing.

Using: さsa しsi すsu せse そso

We create: ざza じzi ずzu ぜze ぞzo

Using: たta てte とto

We create: だda でde どdo

Using: はha ひhi ふhu へhe ほho

We create: ぱpa ぴpi ぷpu ぺpe ぽpo

We create: ばba びbi ぶbu べbe ぼbo

To create ya, yu, yo sounds like zya, hya, gya, nya, nyo, nyu, etc:

Take the a hiragana that ends in "i", like ki, hi, pi, mi, ni

Then add a ya, yu or yo in smaller lettering.

examples:

みや = mya

ひや = hya

にや = nya

みゆ = myu

ひゆ = hyu

にゆ = nyu

みよ = myo

ひよ = hyo

によ = nyo

Finally to create the consonant sounds k, s, t, p:

use a smaller caps つ before the consonant

Examples:

Ni-p-po-n にっぽん

za-s-si ざっし

pi-t-ta-ri ぴったり

ga-k-ka-ri がっかり

Katakana Script:

アa イi ウu エe オo

カka キki クku ケke コko

サsa シsi スsu セse ソso

タta チti ツtu テte トto

ナna ニni ヌnu ネne ノno

ハha ヒhi フhu ヘhe ホho

マma ミmi ムmu メme モmo

ヤya ュyu ヨyo

ラra リri ルru レre ロro

ワwa ヲwo

ンn

Compound sound are produced in katakana the same way that they are produced in hiragana

Word Order:

1. Sentence Structure: The main verb is preceded by the object and the verb always comes at the end of the sentence. Subject - Object - Verb is the structure

友達 わ 時計 を 買いました。

Tomodachi ga tokei wo kaimashita

Friend watch bought (My friend bought a watch)

2. Modifiers

Noun modifiers (possessives, adjectives, sentence modifiers) precede the noun they modify. Also adverbial phrases precede their modifying verbs or adjectives. This is because Japanese is a left branching language.

Particles:

Particles play the role of case markers. Each particle follows a noun phrase and indicates how the noun phrase is related to the predicate sentence.

wa わ = indicates topic

wo を = indicates subject

de で = indicates manner

ni に = indicates goal or direction

Omissions:

Noun phrases such as a topic or an object are commonly omitted if they are understood from context.

(あなたわ) 昨日 映画 を 見ました か。

(Anata wa) kinoo eiga wo mimashita ka.

Did (you) see a movie yesterday?

Speech styles:

There are two styles of speech. Formal (ending in masu, or desu) and informal.

Formal speech is used when in public, or formal situation, when you do not have a close personal relationship with. Informal speech is used with family and friends and is considered impolite when used in public.

Honorifics:

There are two kinds of honorific expressions in Japanese. These are used to show respect and indicate hierarchy based on age or social standing. There are two forms:

Honorific - used to refer to a person who is respected

Humble - used to talk about the speaker, or his/her family

CHAPTER 1

--- COPULA ---

Plain style:

non-past: だ (da)

negative non past: ではない / じゃない (dewanai / ja nai)

Past: だった (datta)

negative non past: ではなかった / じゃなかった (dewanakkata / ja nakatta)

Polite style

non-past: です (desu)

negative non past: ではありません / じゃありません (dewa arimasen / ja arimasen)

Past: でした (deshita)

negative non past: ではありませんでした / じゃありませんでした (dewa arimasen deshita / ja arimasen deshita)

Explanations:

Affirmative non-past: Equivalent to "is" or "am" in English.

田中さんは大学生です。

Tanaka san wa daigakusei desu.

Tanaka san is a student.

Negative non past: Equivalent to "it is not"

あれはさくらじゃない。

Are wa sakura ja nai.

This is not a cherry tree.

Affirmative past: Equivalent to 'it was'

いくらでしたか。

ikura deshita ka

How much was it?

Negative past: Equivalent to 'was not'

学校は休みでしたか。

Gakko wa yasumi deshita ka

Was school closed?

Desu can be a substitution for a predicate which is obvious from context

Tentative Form:

It indicates the speaker's conjecture and it is equivalent to probably

plain - daroo

formal - deshoo

明日 は 雨 でしょう

ashita wa ame deshoo

It will probbaly rain tomorrow

-te form:

the -te form of the copula is **de**. It is equivalent to 'and'

木村 さん は 先生 で、奥さん は 医者 です。

kimura san wa sensei de, okusan wa isha desu.

Mr. kimura is a teacher, and his wife is a doctor.

CHAPTER 2

Adjectives:

There are two kinds of Adjectives: i-adjectives and na-adjectives

Adjectives in Japanese have a tense

Plain style:

non-past: 大きい (ookii)

negative non past: 大きくない (ookiikunai)

Past: 大きかった (ookikatta)

negative non past: 大きくなかった (ookikunakatta)

Polite style

non-past: 大きいです (ookii desu)

negative non past: 大きくありません (ookiku arimasen)

Past: 大きかったです (ookikatta desu)

negative non past: 大きくありませんでした (ookiku arimasen deshita)

non-past: both i-adj and na-adj have polite and plain forms

i-adjective non past forms:

plain form: adjective (大きい)

polite form: adjective + desu (大きいです)

na-adjective non past forms:

plain form: adjective + da (元気だ)

polite form: adjective + desu (元気です)

Negative non-past:

i-adjectives:

to create the negative non-past remove the last **i** of the plain non past form, and add **ku** and then

nai or arimasen

plain form: ookii --> ookikunai

Polite form: ookii --> ookiku arimasen

irregular example: ii --> yoku nai/arimasen

na-adjectives:

Plain form: heta --> heta ja nai **or** heta dewa nai

Polite form: heta --> heta ja arimasen **or** heta dewa arimasen

PAST:

i-adj: to form drop the final i of the adjective and add the eding:

plain form: ookii --> ookikatta

polite form: ookii --> ookikatta desu

na-adj:

to form add ending to adj

plain form: heta datta

polite form: hetta deshita

NEGATIVE PAST:

i-adj:

plain form: ookii --> ookiku nakatta

polite form: ookii --> ookiku arimasen deshita

na-adj:

plain form: heta --> heta ja nakatta

polite form: heta --> heta ja arimasen deshita

ADJECTIVE USAGE:

When an adjective modifies a noun, it always precedes that noun

i-adj:

The plain non-past form can modify the noun directly:

この 赤い 車 は よく ありません

kono akai kuruma wa yoku arimasen

this red car is not good

na-adj:

when it is modifying a noun, the final **da** of the plain non past is replaced by **na**

heta da --> heta na

これは 大事な 本 です。

kore wa daiji na hon desu

This is a valuable book

ADVERBIAL USAGE

both i-adj and na-adj can modify verbs

i-adj:

replace the last **i** with **ku**

もっと 大きく 書きましょうか。

motto ookiku kakimashoo ka

Shall I write bigger?

na-adj:

to form replace the **da** of the of the plain non-past to **ni**

heta da --> heta ni

地図 を 簡単 に 書きましょう。

chizu wa kantan ni kakimashoo.

I will draw a simple map

-TE FORM

the -te form links one adjective with another, or a predicate

The meaning varies depending on context but usually it means 'and'

the -te form is tenseless

i-adj:

remove last **i** and add **kute**

ookii --> ookikute

札幌 は 涼しくて いい 所 です。

sapro wa suzushikute ii tokoro desu

Saporo is a cool and nice place

na-adj:

to form replace the **da** of the non past plain form with a **de**

heta de --> heta da

電子辞書 は 簡単で 便利 だ。

denshi jishoo wa kantan de benri da

An electronic dictionary is simple and convenient

AUXILIARY ADJECTIVE

1. Verb stem + tai

Expresses the desire to do something. Equivalent to "want to (do)"

Conjugation is the same as i-adj

verb: ikimasu

	Plain	Polite
NP	iki-tai	iki-tai desu
NNP	iki-taku nai	iki-taku arimasen
P	iki-takatta	iki-takatta desu
NP	iki-taku nakatta	iki-taku arimasen deshita

私 は いつか タヒチ へ 行きたい です。

watashi wa itsuka Tahiti e ikitai desu

I want to go to Tahiti someday

2. V-te + hoshii/morai-tai

This is the equivalent to "want someone to do something".

That someone is marked by the particle **ni** and should not be of higher status than the subject of the expression. Conjugation is the same as i-adj

verb: iku

	Plain	Polite
NP	itte hoshii	itte hoshii
NNP	itte hoshikunai	itte hoshiku arimasen
P	itte hoshikatta	itte hoshikatta desu
NP	itte hoshikunakatta	itte hoshiku arimasen deshita

or

	Plain	Polite
NP	itte morai-tai	itte morai-tai desu
NNP	itte moraitakunai	itte morai-taku arimasen
P	itte moraitakatta	itte morai-takatta desu
NP	itte moraitakunakatta	itte morai-taku arimasen deshita

新しい アパアと を 見てほしい から、今晚 来てください。

atarashii apaato wo mite hoshii kara, konban kite kudasai

I want you to look at my new apartment, so please come tonight

note 1: hoshii, without the -te form, expresses one's desire to have something

X wa Y ga hoshii desu --> X wants Y

古い 机 が ほしくて さがして います。

furui tsukue ga hoshikute sagashite imasu

I want an old desk and I have been looking for it

Note 2: The 3rd person's desire is usually expressed with:

v-stem + tagaru/tagatte iru

v-te + moraitagaru/moraitagatte iru

v-te + hashigaru/hashigatte iru

吉田さんは古い中国の絵をほしがっています。

Yoshida san wa furui chuugoku no e wo hoshigatte imasu

Mr Yoshida wants an old Chinese painting

3. v-stem + yasui

equivalent of "something is easy to do"

verb: ikimasu

	Plain	Polite
NP	iki + yasui	iki + yasui desu
NNP	iki + yasukunai	iki + yasuku arimasen
P	iki + yasukatta	iki + yasukatta desu
NP	iki + yasuku nakatta	iki + yasuku arimasen deshita

このペンは書きやすい

kono pen wa kakiyasui

This pen is easy to write with

4. V-stem + nikui

Equivalent to "something is difficult to do"

verb: ikimasu

verb: ikimasu

	Plain	Polite
NP	iki + nikui	iki + nikui desu
NNP	iki + nikukunai	iki + nikuku arimasen
P	iki + nikukatta	iki + nikukatta desu
NP	iki + nikuku nakatta	iki + nikuku arimasen deshita

この本は字が小さくて読みにくいですね。

kono hon wa ji ga chiisakute yomi nikui desu ne

The letters of this book are small and difficult to read, aren't they?

CHAPTER 3

ADVERBS

1. Moo もう

Meaning: Already (in an affirmative sentence), no longer (in a negative sentence)

あの 新しい 映画 を もう 見ました か。

Ano atarashii eiga wo moo mimashita ka

Have you already seen this movie?

2. Mada まだ

Meaning: still / yet (in a positive sentence), not yet (in a negative sentence)

Note: Mada desu in a positive sentence means "not yet"

兄 は まだ 学生 です。

Ani wa mada gakusei desu

My older brother is still a student.

3. Amari あまり

Meaning: not so much, not often, not enough (always used in negative sentence)

肉 は あまり 食べたく ありません。

Niku wa amari tabetaku arimasen

I do not want to eat meat

4. Zenzen

Meaning: not at all (always used in negative sentence)

あの 映画 は ぜんぜん おもしろく ありません でした。

Ano eiga wa zenzen omoshiroku arimasen deshita

That movie was not interesting at all

5. Tokidoki

Meaning: sometimes, now and then (always used in a positive sentence)

時々 一緒に 食事 を しましょう。

tokidoki issho ni shokuji shimasyoo

Let's eat together, now and then

6. Nakanaka

Meaning: quite so and so (in affirmative sentence), not easy / not soon, "it takes time for something to be done" (in a negative sentence)

なかなか いい 映画 でした ね。

Nakanaka ii eiga deshita ne

it was quite a good movie, wasn't it?

天ぷら を 注文した のに、なかなか もって いません。

Tenpura wo chuumonshita noni, nakanaka motte imasen

I ordered tempura, but it takes time for them to bring it

CHAPTER 4

PRONOUNS

Demonstrative pronouns are represented by "ko-so-a-do" words.

ko - thing closest to speaker

so - thing farther away from speaker but close to listener
a - thing the farthest away from both speaker and listener
do - question word

Nominals

Thing	Place
Kore (this thing)	Koko (here/this place)
Sore (that thing)	Soko (there/that place)
Are (that thing over there)	Asoko (over there/that place over there)
Dore (which one)	Doko (which place)

Noun Modifiers:

Kono ~ (this ~)	Konna ~ (this kind of ~)
Sono ~ (that ~)	Sonna ~ (that kind of ~)
Ano ~ (that ~)	Anna ~ (that kind of ~ over there)
Dono ~ (which ~)	Donna ~ (what kind of ~)

これは いくら です か。
kore wa ikura desu ka
How much is this ?

Personal Pronouns

	Single	Plural
1st person	watashi (I)	watashi-tachi (we)
2nd person	anata (you)	anata-tachi (you)
3rd person	kanojo (he) kare (she)	kanojo-ra/tachi (they) kare-ra/tachi (they)

Personal pronouns are often omitted if they are understood by context.

BE CAREFUL! Second and Third person pronouns are rarely or never used, especially when addressing a superior because they carry a connotation of an arrogant tone. Second and third person are referred to by their names instead of the pronoun. They are also referred to by kono/sono/ano hito.

あの 人 は 今 何才 です か。
Ano hito wa ima nan sai desu ka.
How old is he/she (he/she actually means person)

Pronoun "no" の

の corresponds to "one" in English and refers to something which is already introduced in the given context. In general the thing referred to by の is tangible.

この 辞書 は 私 が もって いる の と 同じ です。

kono jisho wa watashi ga motte iru no to onaji desu

This dictionary is the same as the one I have.

CHAPTER 5

NUMBERS, TIME, DATES, COUNTERS

Numbers:

# #	katana	kanji	pronunciation
01	いち	一	ichi
02	に	二	ni
03	さん	三	san
04	し よん	四	shi, yong
05	ご	五	go
06	ろく	六	roku
07	しち なな	七	shichi, nana
08	はち	八	hachi
09	きゅう	九	Kiyuu, Ku
10	じゅう	十	Jiu
100	ひゃく	百	hiyaku
1000	せん	千	sen
10000	まん		man
1000000	ひゃくまん		hiyakuman

Numbers are formed as compounds of the above, just as in chinese.

So 40 =よんじゅう, 70 = ななじゅう, 99 =きゅうじゅうきゅう

Time:

Hours	Kanji	Romanji
1:00 AM	午前一時	gozen ichi-ji
1:00 PM	午後一時	gogo ichi-ji
2:00	二時	ni-ji
3:00	三時	san-ji
What time? 何時		nan-ji
format for hours = number + 時 (ji)		

Minutes	kanji	romanji
1	一分	ip-pun
2	二分	ni-fun
3	三分	san-pun
4	四分	yon-pun

5	五分	go-pun
6	六分	rop-pun
7	七分	nana/shichi-fun
8	八分	hap-pun
9	九分	kyuu-fun
10	十分	jup-pun
what minute?	何分	nan pun
etc		
format for minutes: number + 分		

counters for hours and minutes:

~ jikan, and ~fun/pun (kan) are used with numerals to count the number of hours and minutes respectively

Nine hours: 九時間 (kyuu-ji kan)

five minutes: 五分 (間) (go fun (kan))

Dates:

Month	Kanji	Pronunciation
Jan	一月	ichi-gatsu
Feb	二月	ni-gatsu
Mar	三月	san-gatsu
Apr	四月	shi-gatsu
May	五月	go-gatsu
Jun	六月	roku-gatsu
Jul	七月	shichi-gatsu
Aug	八月	hachi-gatsu
Sep	九月	ku-gatsu
Oct	十月	juu-gatsu
Nov	十一月	juuichi-gatsu
Dec	十二月	juuni-gatsu
Question	何月	nan-gatsu

Days	kanji	pronunciation
1st	一日	tsuitachi
2nd	二日	futsuka
3rd	三日	mikka
4th	四日	yokka
5th	五日	itsuka
6th	六日	muika
7th	七日	nanoka
8th	八日	yooka
9th	九日	kokonoka
10th	十日	tooka

11th	etc...	juuichi nichi
12th		juuni nichi
13th		juusan nichi
14th		juuyokka
15th		juugi nichi
16th		juuroku nichi
17th		juushichi nichi
18th		juuhachi nichi
19th		juuku nichi
20th		hatsuka
21st		nijuuichi nichi
22nd		nijuuni nichi
23rd		nijuusan nichi
24th		nijuuyokka
25th		nijuugo nichi
26th		nijuuroku nichi
27th		nijuushichi nichi
28th		nijuuhachi nichi
29th		nijuuku nichi
30th		sanjuu nichi
31st		sanjuuichi nichi
Interog.	何日	nan nichi

Counters for Days and Months:

~ ka (-kan)/~nichi (-kan), ~ka getsu (-kan) --> used with numerals to count the number of days and months respectively.

1 day --> 一日間 (ichi nichi kan)

2 days --> 二日間 (futsuka kan)

1 month --> 一ヶ月間 (ik ka getsu kan)

10 months --> 十ヶ月間 (juu ka getsu kan)

example: 五日 前 に 田中さん と 一緒 に ゴルフ を しました。

itsu-ka mae ni Tanaka-san to issho ni gorufu wo shimashita

I played golf with Tanaka five days ago.

Days of the Week:

Day	Kanji	Pronunciation
Mon	月曜日	getsu-yoobi
Tue	火曜日	ka-yoobi
Wed	水曜日	sui-yoobi
Thu	木曜日	moku-yoobi
Fri	金曜日	kin-yoobi
Sat	土曜日	do-yoobi
Sun	日曜日	nichi-yoobi

Inter. 何曜日 nan-yoobi

来週 の 月曜日 に 試験 が あります。
Raisyuu no getsu-yoobi ni shiken ga arimasen
I have an exam on next Monday

Counters for weeks:

~shuukan is used to count the number of weeks
1 week --> 一週間 --> is-shuukan

Years:

~nen 年 is used with numerals to name years
The year 2000 = 二千年 (ni sen nen)

~ nen (kan) 年 (間) is used to enumerate years
10 years = 十年間 (juu nen kan)

COUNTERS

There is no distinction between singular and plural in words.
There are however counter words which come after the number which distinguish what are the items being counted.

1. Mai

Used to describe flat things like paper and CDs.
The numbers used are the normal numbers

2. Hon (pon/bon)

Counts long, shaped things like pencils, pens, bottles and trees

1	ip-pon	6	rop-pun
2	ni-hon	7	nana/shichi-hon
3	san-bon	8	hap-pon
4	yon-hon	9	kyuu-hon
5	go-hon	10	jup-pon

3. Hai (pai/bai)

Counts cups, glasses and bowls of food or drinks
Uses the san numbering scheme as Hon
eg: 1 ip-pai

4. Nin

Used to count people.

Uses same counting system as normal numbers, except for 1 and 2

1 hitori

2 futari

5. Satsu

Used to count bound books, magazines, etc

1 is-satsu

8 has-satsu

5 go-satsu

6. Hiki (piki/biki)

general counter for animals (but not birds!)

Uses same numbering system as Hon

7. Tsu

Used to count objects that don't belong to any other category

1	hitotsu	6	muttsu
2	futatsu	7	nanatsu
3	mittsu	8	yatsu
4	yottsu	9	kokonotsu
5	itsutsu	10	too

It only exists between numbers 1 through 10. The rest are the normal numbers

CHAPTER 6

PARTICLES

1. WA は

USAGE 1: Marks the topic of the sentence. Topic can be object, place, person. A word or phrase preceding wa is something already mentioned or obvious from context or universally accepted facts. The focus of the sentence is placed on the part which follows wa.

友子さん は 学生 です。

Tomokosan wa gakusei desu

Tomoko san is a student

USAGE 2: It shows contrast of a word or phrase marked by wa with something else. It also indicates the contrastive element when it is used in negative sentences.

去年 日本 へ 行った 時、東京 へ は 行きました が、京都 へ は 行きません でした。

Kyonen Nihon e itta toki, TOkyo e wa ikimashita ga, Kyoto e wa ikimasen deshita

When I went to Japan last year, I went to Tokyo, but I did not go to Kyoto.

2. GA が

USAGE 1: Used to mark the subject of the sentence. The ga comes after the word or phrase that is the subject of the sentence which is introduced as new information in the conversation. Ga puts a focus on the elements preceeding it. In case the subject has a contrastive element, the subject marker ga is replaced with wa. When a WH-word is the subject of a sentence, it is always followed by ga and in the response to the question the subject is marked with ga.

誰 が これ を 持って 来た んです か。
Dare ga kore o motte kita n'desu ka
Who brought this

USAGE 2: The subject of a subordinate clause is marked with ga whe nit is not the same as the subject of the main clause

友達 が 来た から、仕事 を しません でした。
Tomodachi ga kita kara, shigoto wo shimasen deshita
Since my friend came, I did not work

note: In a relative clause the subject may be followed by の as well as が
田中さん が／の 買った 時計 は とても 高かった です。
Takana san ga/no katta tokei wa totemo takakatta desu
The watch Ms. Tanaka bought was very expensive

USAGE 3: The direct object of stative verbs and some auxiliary verbs is usually marked with ga. If the object has a contrastive element ga is replaced by wa.

鈴木さん は ジャズ が とても 好き です。
Suzuki san wa jazu ga totemo suki desu
Mr Suzuki likes jazz very much

USAGE 4: The following special predicates need ga for object marking:

iru (need), dekiru (can do), hoshii (want), mieru (can see), kokieru (can hear), wakaru (understand), -tai (want to)

3. WO を

USAGE 1: Marks the word that precedes it as the direct object of the sentence

先週 おもしろい 映画 を 見ました。
Senshuu omoshiroi wiga wo mimashita
Last week I saw an interesting movie

USAGE 2: Marks the place word through which the motion takes place. It also indicates a place from which the movement starts

この 道 を 通って 行きましょう。
Kono michi wo tootte ikimashoo
Let's go through this street

4. NI に

USAGE 1: It marks the word preceeding it as the indirect object.

私 に その 辞書 を ください。

Watashi ni sono jishoo wo kudasai

Please give me that dictionary

USAGE 2: It marks the location of objects

あの 店 に とても いい カメラ が あります よ。

Ano mise ni totemo ii kamera ga arimasu yo

There are very good cameras in that store

USAGE 3: Corresponds to "at, on, in" in English. It marks the point of time. It usually follows time expressions where at, on, in are used in english. It does not follow the time words which do not need prepositions in English like today or last week

毎朝 七期 に おきます。

Maiasa shichiji ni okimasu

Every morning I get up at seven o'clock

note: in the case of "in the morning" or "at night" the japanese equivalents do not use ni.

USAGE 4: It is used to mark the destination of a motion verb

今晚 映画 に 来ません か。

Konban eiga ni ikimaen ka

Would you like to go to a movie tonight?

USAGE 5: V-stem + ni with a motion verb indicates the purpose of a verb

田中さん は 毎日 昼ご飯 を 食べに へ 家 帰ります

Takana san wa mainichi hirugohan wo tabeni uchi e kaerimasu

Mr Tanaka goes back home to eat lunch every day

USAGE 6: Marks the agent of the action expressed by passive, causative or causative passive verbs.

私 は 子供 に 毎日 野菜 を 食べさせます。

Watashi wa kodomo ni mainichi yasai wo tabesasemasu

I make my children eat veggies every day

4. E へ

USAGE: Indicates direction of a motion verb. Corresponds to "toward" or "to". Usually interchangeable with ni.

今年 の 夏 ロンドン へ 行きます。

Kotoshi no natsu Rondon e ikimasu

This summer I am going to London

5. DE で

USAGE 1: Marks the place where and action takes place, or an event occurs. Equivalent to "in"

道子さん は レストラン で 働いて います

Michiko san wa resutoran de hataraitte imasu

Michiko san is working at the restaurant

USAGE 2: Indicates the means of doing something. Corresponds to "by" or "with"

黒い ペン で なめ を 書いて ください。

Kuroi pen de name wo kaite kudasai

Please write your name with a black pen

USAGE 3: Indicates cause. Corresponds to "because of"

仕事 で シカゴ へ 行きます

shigoto de shikago e ikimasu

I am going to chicago on business

USAGE 4: Indicates requested time or quantity

この レポート を 二日 で 書かなければ なりません。

kono repooto wa futsuka de kakanakereba narimasen

I must write this report in two days

6. KA か

USAGE 1: Used at the end of a sentence to mark it as an interrogative sentence

USAGE 2: Used to indicate an alternative X ka Y = X or Y

USAGE 3: the expression ka doo ka indicates that the preceeding sentence is an embedded yes or no question. Corresponds to 'whether (or not)'

田中さん が 肉 を 食べる かどうか 知りません

I do not know wheather Tanaka eats meat.

note: when the embedded sentence is a WH-word, just use ka by itself

7. NE ね

USAGE: It is placed at the end of a sentence to seek the agreement or confirmation of the listener.

It is often regarded as a tag question in english

大きい です ね

ookii desu ne

It is large, isn't it?

8. Yo よ

USAGE: It is a final particle of emphasis showing the speaker's conviction

あの店 は 高い です よ。

Ano mise wa takai desu yo

That store is expensive, you know

9. NO の

USAGE 1: marks the modifier of the noun following it. Indicates possessive of the preceding noun.

田中さん の お母さん は シカゴ に すんで います。

Tanaka's mother lives in Chicago

USAGE 2: indicates that the preceding and following nouns are equivalent

私 の 犬 の チロ は テリア です。

My dog, Chiro, is a terrier.

USAGE 3: It marks the location of the noun following it. X no Y means Y in/at X

シカゴ の 会社 に つとめたい です。

Chicago no kaisha ni tsutometai desu

I want to work at a company in Chicago

USAGE 4: It marks the subject of a sentence modifier. This no is interchangeable with ga.

これ は 私 の/が 作った ケーキ です。

Kore wa watashi no/ga tsukutta keeki desu

This is the cake I made.

10. MO も

USAGE 1: Indicates similarity. In a positive sentence it means also, in a negative it means either.

去年 シカゴ へ いきました。 ボストン へ も いきました。

Kyonen shikago e ikimashita. Bosuton e mo ikimashita

Last year I went to Chicago. I also went to Boston.

note: ga, wa, and wo are replaced with mo, but other particles co-exist with it

USAGE 2: It follows a quantitative word with a numeral to emphasize how much or how little the amount is.

昨日 は 二時間 も 寝ません でした。

Kinoo wa nijikan mo nemasen deshita

Yesterday I did not sleep for not even two hours

11. ~MO~MO ~も~も

USAGE: In a positive sentence "both...and". in a negative sentence "neither...nor"

12. TO と

USAGE 1: Joins nouns. Equivalent to "and"

カナダ と アメリカ

Canada and America

USAGE 2: Marks the persons with whom one does things. Equivalent to "with"

私 は 友達 と アパート に 住ん で います。

Watashi wa tomodachi ni apaato ni sunde imasu

I live in an apartment with a friend

USAGE 3: It indicates that the preceding sentence or word is a quotation, one's thought, onomatopoeia, etc

犬 が ワンワン と なきました。

Inu ga wanwan to nakimashita

A dog barked, "ruff ruff"

USAGE 4: It indicates that the preceding noun is the same as ~, or different from ~

田中さん の 車 は 私 の と 同 じ だ。

Tanaka san no kuruma watashi no to onaji da

Tanaka's car is the same as mine

13. YA や

USAGE: connects nouns and implies that there are more than the ones listed. Equivalent to "and so on".

田中さん や 武さん も パアチイ に 来 ました。

Tanakasan ya takeshisn mo paatii no kimashita

Takana, Takeshi and others also came to the party

14. KARA から

USAGE: Indicates the starting point. Equivalent to from

明日 ボストン から 車 で 来 ました。

Ashita bosuton kara kuruma de kimashita

Tomorrow I will come from Boston by car

15. MADE まで

USAGE: corresponds to "up to", "until", "as far as"

家 から 会社 まで 歩い て い きます。

Uchi kara kaisha made aruite ikimasu

I walk to my office from home

16. MADE NI までに

USAGE: Marks time limit. English: by / by the time

三月 までに 結果 を お知らせ し ます

sangatsu madeni kikka wo oshirase shimasu

I will notify you of the result in March

17. YORI より

USAGE: indicates that the preceding noun or verb shows measure for comparison. Equivalent to "than ~" in english

田中さん は 私 より 背 が 高い
Tanakasan wa watashi yori se ga takai
Tanaka is taller than I

18. HODO ほど

USAGE: ~hodo + negative expression shows that the preceding noun or verb shows the standard of negative comparison. Equivalent to "not as...as~"

シカゴ は ボストン ほど 有名 じゃありません
shikago wa bosuton hodo yuumei ja arimasen
Chicago is not as famous as Boston

19. DAKE だけ

USAGE: Indicates that the preceding sentence or noun shows restriction or limitation. Equivalent to "just" or "only"

やさしい 漢字 だけ 覚えました。
yasashii kanji dake oboemashita
I memorized just easy kanji

20. SHIKA

USAGE: shika + negative expression is equivalent to "only" no "nothing but"

田中さん と 吉田さん しか 来ません でした。
Only tanaka and yoshida came

CHAPTER 7

CONJUNCTION

Coordinating Conjunction:

1. GA が

Corresponds to "but" and joins two contrastive sentences

ひま は あります が、お金 は ありません。
Hima wa arimasu ga, okane wa arimasen
I have free time, but I don't have money

Subordinating Conjunction:

1. TOKI

It indicates "a time when~". The subject of toki is marked by ga. Ni, wa and ni wa can be added to toki depending on the context

i. Noun + no toki (ni) (wa)

学生 の とき フランス語 を 勉強 しました。
gakusei no toki furansugo wo benkyo shimashita
I studied French when I was a student

ii. i-adj + toki

iii. na-adj + toki

iv. Verb + toki

The event in the toki clause is stated in the past plain form when the event takes place before the event in the main clause. When the event in the toki clause is always stated in the non-past plain form when it takes place after the event of the main clause regardless of the tense.

昨日 バス に 乗る 時 田中さん に あいました。
kino basu ni noru toki tanakasan ni aimashita
Yesterday I met Tanaka when I rode the bus

A negative sentence in a toki clause is commonly described in the non-past plain form whether the statement refers to the non past event or the past event.

2. MAE

An independent now meaning "in front of".

The clause or noun phrase of mae indicates "the time before~"

The subject of the mae clause is marked by ga because it is a subordinate clause

Ni, wa and ni wa can be used in a mae clause.

i. noun + no mae ni

試験 の 前 に 何度 も 漢字 を 練習 した。
Shiken no mae ni nando mo kanji wo renshii shita
I practiced kanji many times before the exam

ii. Verb + mae ni

the verb in the mae clause is always in the non-past plain form regardless of tense.

3. Ato

The phrase or sentence following ato indicates "the time after doing so and so~".

When the subject in the subordinate clause is different from the one in the main clause it is marked with ga. De or wa may be added to ato depending on context.

i. noun + no ato (de)

食事 の 後 で さんぽ しました
shokiju no ato de sanpo shimashita
i took a walk after the meal

ii. Verb (plain past) + ato (de)

The verb in the subordinate clause of ato is always in the plain past form whether the statement is about the present or future event.

4. Aida / Aida ni

Is an independent noun meaning between.

When it follows a phrase or sentence it indicates "during the time when~" or "while~"

When the subject in the clause of aida is different than the one in the main clause it is marked with ga.

The event or action in the main clause takes place during the span of the aida clause.

The event or action in the main clause takes place at a certain point during the aida ni clause

i. noun + aida/aida ni

休み の 間 に ボストン へ 行って 来ます。
yasumi no aida ni bosuton e itte kimasu
I will go to boston during vacation

ii. na-adj + aida/aida ni

iii. i-adj + aida/aida ni

iv. verb + aida/aida ni

When the verb in the aida clause indicates an action it is always states in the form of ~te iru whether it refers to the past or non past event.

5. Kara

It indicates reason and it is equivalent to because

Since the kara clause is a subordinate clause, the predicate in the clause is usually described in the plain form and the subject is marked by ga when it is different from the one in the main clause.

i. copula + kara

ii. i-adj + kara

iii. na-adj + kara

iv. verb + kara

6. Node

The node clause refers to cause or reason

Since node is used in an objective statement, the subjective expression, such as ~mashoo (lets ~), -te kudasai (please do ~), and so on, does not take place in the main clause, while the kara allows

those subjective expressions in the main clause.

i. noun/na-adj + node

the plain non past copula da is replaced by na when the statement in the node clause is in the present

いい 天気 な ので、公園 は 人 が 多い です。

ii tenki na node, kooen wa hito ga ooi desu

The park is full of people because of the nice weather

ii. i-adj + node

iii. Verb + node

7. Noni

Corresponds to "in spite of the fact~" or "although~" and follows a phrase or sentence.

The main clause after noni usually states something which turns out to be contrary to the speaker's expectation. The statement with noni reflects the speaker's surprise, disappointment etc. It also carries the speaker's reproachful tone depending on the context.

i. Noun + na-adj + noni

父 は 病気 な のに 、仕事 に 行きました。

chichi wa byooki na noni, shigoto ni ikimashita

My father went to work although he was sick.

ii. i-adj + noni

iii. verb + noni

8. Nagara

V-stem + nagara forms and adverbial phrase which refers to the secondary action which takes place simultaneously with the action in the main clause and it is interpreted as "do something while ~ing". In this structure the agent of the v-nagara and the agent of the action in the main clause should be the same person.

父 は 水 を 飲み ながら、テレビ を 見て いる。

chichi wa sui wo nomi nagara, terebi wo mite iru

My father is drinking water while watching television

9. Made

A noun phrase or sentence followed by made is equivalent to "until ~" and a phrase or sentence followed by made ni is equivalent to "by the time when~"

The verb in the subordinate clause of made or made ni is always in the plain non-past form whether the statement refers to a past or non-past event

i. noun + made/made ni

二時 まで に 来て ください

niji made ni kite kudasai
please come by two o'clock

ii. verb + made/made ni

the subject in the subordinate clause of made (ni) is marked by ga when it is different from the subject in the main clause.

CHAPTER 8

VERBS

Styles:

Japanese has two styles. The formal style (-masu ending), which is the polite style, and the informal style which is used for speech between friends and family.

Forms and Groups:

examples:

	NP	NNP	P	NP
Plain	iku	ikanai	it-ta	ika-nakatta
	taberu	tabe-nai	tabe-ta	tabe-nakatta
Polite	iki-masu	iki-masen	iki-mashita	iki-masen deshita
	tabe-masu	tabe-masen	tabe-mashita	tabe-masen deshita

The plain non past form is also known as the dictionary form. Japanese verbs have three categories:

- u verbs which end in -u
- ru verbs which end in -ru
- irregular verbs --> only two exist: suru (to do) and kuru (to come)

Formation of plain negative non past:

i. U verbs:

remove the final -u and add -anai

kiku --> kikanai

matsu - matanai

The final -u of two vowels "au", "iu", "uu" and "ou" are replaced by -wanai

kau --> kawanai

ii. RU verbs

the final -ru is replaced by -nai

taberu --> tabenai

iii. irregulars
suru --> shinai
kuru --> konai

Formation of the plain negative past

Replace -nai with -nakatta (all three categories of verbs)

shinai --> shinakatta
tabenai --> tabenakatta

Formation of plain past form

i. U-Verbs

Verbs ending in -ku
change -ku to ita
kaku --> kakita, kiku -> kita, iku -> ikitta (exception)

Verbs ending in -gu
change -gu to -ida
oyogu --> oyoida

Verbs ending in -mu, -nu, -bu
change ending to -nda
yomu-> yonda, nomu-> nonda

Verbs ending in -u, -tsu, -ru
change ending to -tta
matsu --> matta

Verb ending in -su
change ending to -shita
hanasu --> hanashita

ii. RU verbs

change -ru ending to -ta

iii. Irregular

suru -> shita
kuru -> kita

BASIC TYPES OF JAPANESE VERB SENTENCE

1. V-mashoo

~mashoo means "lets do such and such"

~mashoo ka means "shall we do..."

少し 休みましょう
sukoshi yasumimashoo
Lets take a break

2. Intransative verbs:

These require no object.

The subject and the verb are the main elements in the structure

昨日 雨 が 降りました
kinoo ame ga furimashita
It rained yesterday

3. Transative verbs

i. Subj + Obj + Transative action verb

The subject is marked by ga/wa and the direct object by wo

ii. Subj + indObj + dirObj + Transative verb

The indirect object is marked by the particle ni and the direct object by wo.

The indirect object usually precedes the direct object

山田さん に 田中さん を 紹介 しました
Yamadasan ni tanakasan wo shookai shimashita
I introduced tanaka to yamada

4. Motion Verbs

Subj + Direction + Motion Verb

The direction or the destination of a motion verb is always marked by ni/e

今年 わ 日本 へ いきます
kotoshi wa nihon e ikimasu
I am going to japan this year

5. Existential verbs

i. Place + Subj + Existential verb

This indicates that something or someone exist in a certain place

The place precedes the subject of the sentence and it is marked by ni

The subject is marked by ga. There exist two existential verbs iru and aru

iru refers to animate beings

aru refers to inanimate things

この 図書館 に 日本 の 新聞 が ありません か
kono toshokan ni nihon no shinbun ga arimasu ka
Is there a japanese newspaper in this library

ii. Subj + Place + existential verb

This sentence structure refers to the location of something or someone

In this structure the subject is always marked by wa, the place with ni

山田さん は 今 どこ に います か
yamada san wa ima doko ni imasu ka
Where is Yamada san now?

6. Spontaneous Verbs

Subj + Obj + Spontaneous verb

Wakaru (comprehensible), mieru (visible), kikoeru (audible) are spontaneous verbs. The object is marked by ga in this expression

私 は 日本語 が わかります
watashi wa nihonga ga wakarimasu
I understand Japanese

POTENTIAL FORM

1. Formation of potential verbs

i. U-verbs

replace final -u with -eru
yomu --> yomueru

ii. RU verbs

replace final -ru with -rareru
taberu --> taberareru

iii. Irregular

kuru --> korareru
suru --> dekiru

In potential sentences the DO of a transitive verbs is marked by ga

ボストン で おいしい すし が 食べられます か。

Bosuton de oishii sushi ga taberaremasu ka

Can you find good sushi in Boston?

VERBS OF GIVING/RECEIVING

Ageru - to give

Used in the context of someone gives something to someone else

It is never used in the context of someone giving something to me

Kureru - to give

Used in the context of someone gives something to me (or to my family member)

Morau - to receive

In the context of someone receive something from someone else
It is not used when the giver is the first person

Honorific & Humble expressions

Sashiageru - humble of ageru

kudasaru - honorific of kureru

itadaku - humble of morau

yaru - used when speaker gives something to an inferior (instead of ageru)

VERBS NARU & SURU

Naru corresponds to "to become"

noun: sensei da --> sensei ni naru

na-adj: shizuka da --> shizuka ni naru

i-adj: atsui --> atsu-ku naru

来月 私は 十八才 に なります

raigatsu watashi wa juuhassai ni narimasu

Next month I will become 18

Suru means "to do" and in the intransitive expression it means to :make someone or something into such and such a state

noun: musuko wa isha da --> musuko wo isha ni suru

na-adj: Heya wa kirei da --> heya wo kirei ni suru

i-adj: heya wa atatakai --> heya wo atatakau suru

二つの 部屋 を 広い 寝室 に しました

futatsu no heya wo hiroi shishitsu ni shimashita

I made the 2 rooms into a spacious bedroom

This pattern is also used as an expression of someone's volition as "to decide on"

私は 専攻 を 政治学 に しました

watashi wa senkoo wo seijigaku ni shimashita

I decided to major in politics

V (plain non past) + koto ni naru

versus

V (plain non past) + koto ni suru

~koto ni naru = it is decided that~ or it turns out that ~

~koto ni suru = decided to do ~ = expresses speaker's volition

中国語 を 習う こと に しました

chiigokugo wo narau koto ni shimashita

I decided to learn chinese

V (plain non past) + yoo ni naru

versus

V (plain non past_ + yoo ni suru

~ yoo ni naru = expresses gradual change of smth or someone. It corresponds to "come to be that ~" or "reach the point of ~"

~ yoo ni suru = indicates the effort or attempt to do something.

日本語 が 少し わかる よう に なりました

nihongo ga sukoshi wakaru yoo ni narimashita

I came to understand some Japanese

PASSIVE FORM:

1. Formation

i. U-verbs

replace final -u with -areru

tsukau --> tsukaw-arare

yomu --> yom-areru

ii. RU-verb

replace -ru with -rareru

miru --> mirareru

iii. irregular

kuru --> korareru

suru --> sareru

Japanese passive sentences are divided into two groups: direct and indirect

X wa Y ni V-rareru direct passive indicates that the subject of X is directly affected by the action of the agent Y

Indirect passive indicates that the subject X is indirectly affected by the action of Y

In general a passive sentence (especially indirect) reflects a feeling that he or she is troubled or annoyed by the action of someone else. Therefore the indirect passive is referred to as "suffering passive". In the passive sentence the agent who take the action is marked by ni.

Direct passive:

けさ 早く 母 に 起こされました

kesa hayaku haha ni okosaremashita

I was wakened by my mother early morning

Indirect passive

映画館 で 妹 に なかれました

eigakan de imooto ni nakaremashita

My sister cried in the movie theater, which bothered me

In Japanese an inanimate object cannot be the subject of this type of the passive sentence.

CAUSATIVE FORM

There are two types of causative: Make-causative and let-causative

Formation of causative verbs

i. U-verbs

replace -u with -aseru

kaku --> kakaseru

ii. RU-verbs

replace -ru with -saseru

taberu --> tabesaseru

iii. irregular:

kuru --> kosaseru

suru --> saseru

all Japanese causative verbs are conjugated the same way as -ru verbs

yomaseru --> yomasete, yomasenai, yomasemasu

Make-causative verbs:

The structure X wa Y + causative verb / X wa Y ni + obj + wo + causative verb indicates that X makes Y do something. Here Y is the agent of action and is marked by wo or ni depending on whether the verb takes the direct object or not

私 は よく 弟 を なかせました

watashi wa yoku ototoo wo nakasemashita.

I often made my little brother cry

Let-causative sentences

The structure X wa Y ni/wo + causative-te + ageru/kureru means that X lets/allows Y do something.

Let-causative is constructed by attaching one of the auxiliary giving/receiving verbs to the -te form of the causative

こ こ で 待たせて ください

koko de matasete kudasai

Please let me wait here

CAUSATIVE PASSIVE FORM:

X wa Y ni (obj wo) + causative passive form means that X is forced or made to do something by Y.

It should be noted that only the make-causative form can be transformed into the causative

passive.

formation:

final -ru of the causative (s)aseru replaced with rareru

tabe-sase-ru --> tabe-sase-rareru

母によく部屋のそうじをさせられました

haha ni yoku heya no sooji wo saseraremashita

I was often made to clean up the room by my mother

-TE FORM

formation:

i. U-verb

verbs ending in -ku

kaku --> kaite, iku -> itte (exception)

Verbs ending in -gu

oyogu --> oyoide

verbs ending in -mu, nu, bu

yomu --> yonde

verbs ending in u, tsu, ru

matsu --> matte

verbs ending in su

hanasu --> hanashite

ii. RU-verbs

replace -ru with -te

miru --> mite

iii. irregular

kuru --> kite

kuru -> shite

Sequence of action:

The -te form refers to the sequence of actions in a sentence. All verbs except for the main verbs which comes at the end of the sentence, take the -te form and they connect the following verbs as a sequence of action

けさ七時に起きて朝ご飯を食べた

kesa chichiji ni okite asagohan wo tabeta

I got up at 7 this morning and ate breakfast

Reason:

The -te form is used to indicate the reason for the statement in the main clause

雨 が 降って 少し すずしく なりました
ame ga futte sukoshi suzushiku narimashita
it became a little bit cool, because it rained

In this structure the statement of the main clause refers to an event which is out of the speaker's control. Therefore, the expression of the speaker's intention, request, desire do not take place in the main clause. The following sentence is incorrect because the speaker's intention is given in the main clause:

お金 が なくて 少し 貸し手 ください
okane ga nakute sukoshi kashite kudasai
I have no money, so please lend me some

Manner:

The -te form refers to the manner for the action stated in the main clause

いつも 歩いて 学校 へ いきます
itsumo aruite gakkō e ikimasu
I always walk to school

Request:

the -te kudasai form corresponds to "please do..."

ちょっと 待って ください
chotto matte kudasai
Wait for a second, please

The negative is formed by negative plain + de kudasai

こ こ で タバコ を 吸わない で ください
koko de tabako wo suwanai de kudasai
Please don't smoke here

Expressions with v-te iru/imasu

i. Progressive or habitual actions

v-te iru indicates that someone is doing something or has been doing something or that a certain action is taking place now. It also indicates habitual action

弟 は 今 お風呂 に 入って いませ
ototo wa ima ofuro ni haitte imasu
My young brother is taking a bath now

ii. a state resulting from an action

v-te iru also expresses a state which results from an action expressed mainly by a motion

verb or an intransitive verb

父 は もう 家 に 帰って います よ

chichi wa moo uchi ni kaette imasu yo

My father is already home

iii. stative verbs

The verbs which indicate a state of being something or somebody rather than an action are usually expressed in v-te iru

田中さん の 電話番号 を 知って います か

Tanakasan no denwa bangoo wo shitte imasu ka

Do you know Tanaka's phone number?

Expression with V-te miru

The expression means "try doing something in order to see how it turns out"

辞書 を 引いて 見ました が、 この 言葉 は ありません

jisho wo hiite mimashita ga, kono kotoba wa arimasen

I tried looking in a dictionary, but there is no such word there

Expressions with V-te oku

Expression means "to do something in advance for future benefit or future use"

It also means "leave something in a certain state for a certain time period"

友達 が 来る から、部屋 を そうじ して おきたい です。

Tomodachi no kuru kara, heya wo sooji shite okitai desu

My friend is coming, so I want to clean up my room beforehand

Expressions with V-te shimau

Used to express two things:

1. Completion of an action

2. Speaker's negative feeling or regret, disappointment, embarrassment, or sorrow about an event

もう 宿題 を して しまいました か

Moo shukudai wo shite shimaimashita ka

Have you done all the homework yet?

電話番号 を 忘れて しまって 連絡 できません

denwabango wo wasurete shimatte renraku dekimasen

I forgot the telephone number and I cannot contact him or her

Expressions with V-te ageru/kureru/morau

Frequently used to refer to somebody's favorable action for somebody else.

v-te ageru - used in the context of "I do something for somebody" or "somebody (2nd or 3rd person) does something for someone else"

v-te kureru - used in the context of "someone does something for me or for a member of my

family"

v-te morau - alternative for the two above expressions. the subject of the sentence is the receiver of the benefit from the action. This expression cannot be used for "i do something for someone else"

友達 の 仕事 を 手伝って あげる つもり です
tomodachi no shigoto wo tetsudatte ageru tsumori desu
I intend to help my friend with his job

v-te sashiageru - polite of v-te ageru. "someone does something for his superior"
v-te kudasaru - polite of v-te kureru. "someone who is a superior does something for me"
v-te itadaku - polite of v-te morau. It is often used in the context of "I receive a benefit from my superior"

VOLITIONAL FORM:

refers to someone's intention or plan

Volitional + omou can be interpreted as "intend to do something" or "thinking of doing something"

Formation:

i. u-verbs

replace -u with -oo

kaku-> kakoo

yomu --> yomoo

ii. ru verbs

replace ru with - yoo

taberu --> tabeyoo

iii. irregular

kuru --> koyoo

suru --> shiyoo

今晚 は 薬 を 飲んで 早く 寝よう と 思います
konban wa kusuri wo nonde hayaku neyoo to omoimasu
I think I will take some medicine and go to bed early tonight

The volitional form is also used as the informal expression of v-mashoo which corresponds to "lets do..."

CHAPTER 9

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

TARA

Formation: attach -ra to the plain past -ta form

		Plain past	Tara form
Copula	ame da	ame datta	ame dattara
	ame ja nai	ame ja nakatta	ame ja nakattara
i-adj:	ooki	ookikatta	ookikattara
	ookikunai	ookikunakatta	ookikunakattara
na-adj	hima da	hima datta	hima dattara
	hima janai	hima janakatta	hima janakattara
u-verb	yomu	yonda	yondara
	yomanai	yomanakatta	yomanakattara
re-verb	miru	minakatta	minakattara
	minai	mita	mitara
irreg	suru	shita	shitara
	shinai	shinakatta	shinakattara
	kuru	kita	kitara
	konai	konakatta	konakattara

Copula & Adj Tara:

Expresses speaker's hypothesis that something or someone in the past, present, future and is equivalent to "if it is", "if it were", "if it had been"

英語 だったら、分かります

Eigo dattara, wakarimasu

If it is English, I can understand

Verb Tara:

It is interpreted as "if~" or "when~" depending on context

家 へ 帰ったら よく 休めます

Uchi e kettara yoku yasumimasu

When I go home I will rest well

If a v-tara clause that is interpreted as "when" refers to an event in the past, the statement in the main clause refers always to an event not under the control of the speaker. The statement often reflects the speaker's surprise, discovery and so forth because it refers to an event that the speaker did not expect.

家 に 帰ったら、ドア が 開いて いた。

Uchi ni kaettara, doa ga aite ita

When I went home, the door was open

BA

The ~ba clause gives a necessary condition for the main clause and corresponds to "if~"

The predicate in the main clause is usually present, unless it is counter-factual

formation:

i. verbs

remove -u, add -eba
taberu --> tabereba

ii. i-adj:
remove -i, add -kereba
atsui --> atsukereba

iii. na-adj:
remove da of plain non past and replace by nara(ba)
heta da --> heta nara(ba)

iv. nouns:
noun + nara(ba)
sensei --> sensei naraba

The ~ba form of words like nai, tai and hoshii is formed the same way as an i-adj

来週 時間 が あれば、姉 と ゴルフ に 行きたい です。

Raishuu jikan ga areba, ane to gorufu ni ikitai desu

If I have time next week, I would like to go golfing with my older sister.

TO

The clause of plain nonpast + to is an expression which corresponds to "whenever~", "when~" or "if~". In this structure the main clause is generally referred to as a natural consequence or effect of the subordinate clause of "to". This expression is used to make a statement about the truth, a natural phenomenon and a common fact.

春 に なる と 暖かく なって 花 が 咲き始める

Haru ni naru to atatakaku natte hana ga saki-hajimeru

Whenever spring comes, it gets warm and flowers start to bloom

CHAPTER 10

INTERROGATIVE WORDS:

何	nani	what
いつ	itsu	when
だれ	dare	who
どこ	doko	where
どちら	dochira	which one
どち	dochi	which one
いくら	ikura	how much
どう	doo	how / what way
なぜ	naze	why

そうして dooshite why

INTERROGATIVE PHRASES WITH PARTICLES

interrogative + demo in affirmative sentences

corresponds to "every~", or "any~"

いつ でも 電話 して ください

itsu domo denwa shite kudasai

Please call me any time

Ni, de, to, kara and other particles are used with demo without being dropped

Interrogative + mo in a negative sentence

corresponds to no~, or not any~

だれ も 田中さん の 住所 を 知りません

dare mo tanakasan no juusho wo shirimasen

Nobody knows tanaka's address

note: dore, itsu and dochira occur with mo in affirmative sentence. They are slightly different in meaning from those which occur with demo in affirmative sentences

この 三冊 の 小説 は どれ も おもしろい です

kono san satsu no shoosetsu wa dore mo omoshiroi desu

Every one of these three novels is interesting

Interrogative + ka

corresponds to some~ or any~ depending on whether affirmative or negative sentence

いつ か 日本 に 行きたい です

itsu ka nihon ni ikitai desu

I want to go to Japan someday

Interrogative + V-te mo/i-adj-te mo/na-adj de mo

Corresponds to "no matter what", "no matter how"

何 を 食べて も 太りません

nani mo tabete mo futorimasen

No matter what I eat, I do not get fat

CHAPTER 11

MODIFICATION OF NOUNS

SENTENCE MODIFIER:

A sentence which elaborates a noun is called a "sentence modifier"

It always preces the modified noun. The predicate of a sentence modifier is always the plain form

and its subject is always marked by ga. The subject marker ga in the sentence modifier may be interchangeable with no.

私 が / の 買った 本 は スペイン語 の 本 です
watashi ga/no katta hon wa supein-go no hon desu
The book I bought is a Spanish book

金子さん が / の 書いた 本 を 読みました か
kanekosan ga/no kaita hon wo yomimashita ka
Did you read the book Mr Kaneko wrote?

CHAPTER 12

NOMINALIZATION

Japanese verbs can be changed to nouns by attaching koto or no to the plain non past form.
V+koto/no corresponds to the english infinitive.

NO

V+no wa ~(da)

Corresponds to "to do/doing something" or "it is ~ to do something"

日本語 で 話す の わ あまり 難しい
nihongo de hanasu no wa amari muzukashikunai
To speak in Japanese is not so difficult

X wa V(pnp) + no ga ~da

Expression often takes place with predicates such as suki da, kirai da, joozu da, heta da and corresponds to X likes, X dislikes, X is good at~, X is not good at~

田中さん は 本 を 読む の が 嫌い です
Takanasan wa hon wo yomu no ga kirai desu
Tanaka does not like reading

V(pnp) +no ga/wa + V(sense/perception)

This predicate is the verb of senses, perception, etc

誰 か が 歌 を 歌って いる の が 聞こえる
Dare ka ga uta wa utatte iru no ga kikoeru
I can hear someone signing

V(pnp) + no wo + V(waiting, helping, etc)

This predicate is the verb of waiting, helping, stopping, discovery, etc

ここ で 谷さん が 来る の を 待ちましょう
koko de tanisan ga kuru no wo machimashoo
Let's wait here for Mr. Tani to come

V(pnp) + no ni~

This expression indicates the purpose and is equivalent to ~in order to do something, or ~for doing something, in English. It is followed often by an expression of stative nature

この 靴 は ジョギング する の に いい

kono kutsu wa joringu suru no ni ii

These shoes are good for jogging

KOTO

V(pnp) + koto ga dekiru

Indicates potentiality and corresponds to "be able to do"

自分 の 国 に 帰る こ と が できない の は 悲しい です

Jubin no kuni ni koeru koto ga dekinai no wa kanashii desu

It is sad not being able to go back to one's own country

note: with verbs that are formed with suru, it is possible to form the potential form by "noun ga dekiru" or by "noun suru koto ga dekiru"

v(pnp) + koto ni suru

corresponds to "a person decided to do something"

V(pnp) + koto ni suru

corresponds to "it is decided that/to~"

CHAPTER 13

MODALITY

TSUMORI

This noun indicates the speaker's intention.

V(pnp) + tsumori da = intend to do something

明日 は 会社 に 十時 ころ 行く つもり です

ashita wa kaisha ni juuji goro iku tsumori desu

I intend to go to work around 10 o'clock tomorrow

HAZU

This noun indicates the speaker's expectation concerning something or somebody, but not the speaker himself. The expression ~hazu da corresponds to "something or someone is expected to be so and so or to do such and such", or "should"

The expectation expressed by hazu does not refer to one's desire, wish, like

Formation:

verb --> V(pnp) + hazu da

iku --> iku hazu da

i-adj --> dictionary form + hazu da

atsui --> atsui hazu da

na-adj --> change final da to na + hazu da

rippa da --> rippa na hazu da

nouns --> noun + no + hazu da

sensei --> sensei no hazu da

あの 人 は 今 四十五才 の はず です

Ano hito wa ima yonjuugo-sai no hazu desu

S/he is expected to be 45 years old now

YOO (MITAI)

Conjecture

~yoo da indicates speakers conjecture through his/her reasoning process based on his observation or first hand info. It is equivalent to "it seems that ~", "it looks like~", or "it appears to~".

Mitai da is a colloquial expression of yoo da. When the word preceding mitai is a na-adj or noun the na of the na-adj or the no following a noun is dropped

formation:

Verb: V (pnp) + yoo da

iku --> iku yoo da

i-adj: dictionary form + yoo da

atsui --> atsui yoo da

na-adj: change the final da to na + yoo da

rippa da --> rippa na yoo da

noun: noun + no + yoo da

sensei --> sensei no yoo da

お母さん が 京都 に いる から、休み に 良子さん は 日本 へ 行く よう です

Okaasan ga Kyooto ni iru kara, yasumi ni yoshikosan wa nihon e iku yoo desu

It seems that yoshiko is going to Japan during the holidays since her mother is in Kyoto

Resemblance

Typically Noun + no yoo da is used as a simile and is equivalent to "~like noun" or "look as if (noun)".

Yoo da conjugates the same way as a na-adj

春さん は 子供 の よう です ね

harusan wa kodomo no ypp desu ne

Haru is like a child, isn't he?

RASHII

Conjecture

~rashii indicates the speaker's conjecture based on mainly what he has heard or read, while yoo da indicates the speaker's conjecture through his reasoning process based on first hand information.

It is equivalent to "it seems that~", "it looks like~", "it appears to~"

期末 試験 は 難しかった らしい

kimatsu shiken wa muzukashikatta rashii

Judging from what I heard from the students, the final test seems to have been difficult

formation:

verb: V(plain) + rashii

iku --> iku rashii

i-adj: dict form + rashii

atsui --> atsui rashii

na-adj: drop final da, add rashii

rippa da --> rippa rashii

noun: noun + rashii

sensei --> sensei rashii

Typical Model

Noun + rashii signifies a noun that embodies a typical or widely accepted idea associated with that noun. Rashii conjugates that same was as an i-adj

今日 は 春 らしい 日 です ね

Kyoo wa haru rashii hi desu ne

Today it is really a typical spring day, isn't it?

SOO

Conjecture:

Indicates the speaker's subjective conjecture based on what he sees or how he feels. Conjugates like a na-adj

formation:

verb: v-stem + soo da

naku --> naki masu --> naki soo da

i-adj: dict form minus last -i, add soo da

atsui --> atsu soo da

na-adj: drop final da, add soo da

rippa da --> rippa soo da

雨 が 降り そう です ね

ame ga furi soo desu ne

It looks like it will rain, doesn't it?

note:~nasa soo da = looks not~

yosa soo da = looks good

Hearsay

It indicates that the sentence preceding soo is what the speaker heard

formation:

verb: v(plain) + soo da

iku --> iku soo da

i-adj: plain form + soo da

atsui --> atsui soo da

na-adj: plain form + soo da

rippa da --> rippa da soo da

noun: noun + da + soo da

sensei da --> sensei da soo da

透さんの犬は おととい 死んだ そう です

toorusan no inu wa ototoi shinda soo desu

I heard that Tooru's dog died the day before yesterday

NO DA /N'DA

~no da / ~n'da refers to an explanatory sentence about share information with the hearer. ~no da is used in written Japanese while ~n'da is used in spoken Japanese

どう した んです か

Doo shita n'desu ka

What happened to you?

Seeking attention:

It is also used to draw attention to the hearer's situation and to involve him in what the speaker is talking about

昨日 映画 を 見た んです けど、面白かった です よ

Kinoo wiga wo mita n'desu kedo, omoshirokatta desu yo

I saw a movie yesterday, it was very interesting

CHAPTER 14

HONORIFIC EXPRESSIONS

Honorific form: Refers to an action or a state of the person whom the speaker respects

Humble form: refers to an action or a state of the speaker or his in-group such as his family

THE SPECIAL HONORIFIC AND HUMBLE FORMS:

Verbs	Honorific	Humble
いる (iru) to exist	irassharu / irasshaimasu	oru / orimasu
行く (iku) to go	orassharu / irasshaimasu	mairu / mairimasu 参る
来る (kuru) to come	irassharu / irasshaimasu	mairu / mairimasu 参る
言う (iu) to say	ossharu / osshaimasu	moosu / mooshimasu 申す
する (suru) to do	nasaru / nasaimasu	itasu / itashimasu
食べる (taberu) to eat	meshiagaru / meshiagarimasu	itadaku / itadakimasu
飲む (nomu) to drink	meshiagaru / meshiagarimasu	itadaku / itadakimasu
見る (miru) to see	goran ni naru / goran ni narimasu	heiken suru / haiken shimasu
知る (shiru) to know	gozonji da / gozonji desu ご存知だ	zonjiru / zonzimasu 存知る
くれる to give	kudasaru / kudasaimasu	-
あげる to give	-	sashiageru / sashiagemasu
もらう to receive	-	itadaku / itadakimasu
聞く (kiku) to hear/ask	-	伺う ukagau / ukagaimasu
合う (au) to meet	-	ome ni kakaru / ome ni kakarimasu
		お目 に かかる

iru , iku, kuru, iu, kureru --> honorific form conjugates as u-verb except for the masu form in which the r of -rimasu is dropped issharimasu --> isshaimasu

An object of haiken suru has to be something which belongs to a person whom the speaker respects:: sensei no o-tegami wo haiken shimashita

Copula	Honorific	Humble
~ da	~ de irassharu	~ de gozaru
	~ de irasshaimasu	~ de gozaimasu

The honorific and humble forms of da conjugate as an u-verb except for the masu form in which the r of -rimasu is dropped issharimasu --> isshaimasu

明日 は 家 に おります
I will be at home tomorrow

OTHER HONORIFIC & HUMBLE FORMS:

verbs	Honorific	Humble
U-verbs	o + Vstem + ni naru	o + Vstem + suru
RU-verbs	o + Vstem + ni naru	o + Vstem + suru

これ を お買い に なります か
kore wo okai ni narimasu ka
Are you going to buy this?

The humble o + Vstem + suru is used only when the speaker's action involves the person being respected by the speaker.

Nouns

Honorific & polite form:

o/go + noun

o is attached to a Japanese word

go is attached to a Sino-Japanese word

本 (hon) --> ご本

病気 (byooki) --> ご病気

名前 (namae) --> お名前

手紙 (tegami) --> お手紙

Family Terms

Plain form

父 - chichi - father

母 - haha - mother

兄 - ani - older brother

姉 - ane - older sister

弟 - ototo - younger brother

妹 - imoto - younger sister

夫／主人 - otto/shujin - husband

妻／家内 - tsuma/kanai - wife

子供 - kodomo - child

両親 - ryooshin - parents

兄弟 - kyoudai - siblings

夫婦 - fuufu - couple

親類／親戚 - shinrui/shinseki - relative

祖父 - sofu - grandfather

祖母 - sobo - grandmother

おじ - oji - uncle

おば - oba - aunt

いとこ - itoko - cousin

Honorific

お父さん - otosan

お母さん - okaasan

お兄さん - oniisan

お姉さん - oneesan

弟さん - ototosan

妹さん - imotosan

ご主人 - goshujin

奥さん - okusan

お子さん - okosan

ご両親 - go ryooshin

ご兄弟

ご夫婦

ご親類／ご親戚

おじいさん

おばあさん

おじさん

おばさん

おいとこさん

I-ADJ and NA-ADJ:

formation:

o + i-adj

o/go + na-adj

若い (wakai) - young --> お若い (owakai)

きれいだ (kirei da) - pretty/clean --> おきれいだ (o kirei da)

親切だ (shinsetsu da) - kind --> ご親切だ

CHAPTER 15

EXPRESSIONS IN JAPANESE

1. COMPARISON

In Japanese there is no comparative form that directly equates to -er, or more~ as in English.

X hoo ga Y yori = X is more or less ~ than Y. The "Y yori" part is omitted when understood from context.

Formation:

- Verbs: V(pnp) + hoo ga/ yori
iku --> iku hoo ga, kuru --> kuru yori
- i-adj: dict form + hoo ga/ yori
atsui --> atsui hoo ga, atsui --> atsui yori
- na-adj: change da to na + hoo ga/ yori
benri da --> benri na hoo ga
- noun: noun + no + hoo ga or noun + yori
sensei --> sensei no hoo ga --or-- sensei yori

京都 へ 行く 時 は 新幹線 で 行く 方 が 飛行機 で 行く より 楽しい

Kyoto e iku toki wa shinkansen de iku hoo ga hikooki de iku yori tanoshii

When one goes to Kyoto, it is more enjoyable going by Shinkansen than by plane

2. SUPERLATIVE

In Japanese the superlative form (equiv. to -est or most~) is an adverbial phrase ichiban~

私 の 友達 の 中 で 太郎さん が 一番 頭 が いい

watashi no tomodachi no naka de Taroosan ga ichiban atama ga ii

Taro is the brightest among my friends

3. NEGATIVE -TE FORM

V-nai de corresponds to "without doing ~", or "instead of doing ~"

Formation:

- ik-u --> ik-anai --> ik-anai de
tabe-ru --> tabe-nai --> tabe-nai de

明日 は 図書館 に 行かない で 家で 勉強 を しよう と 思います

Ashita wa toshokan ni ikunai de uchi de benkyoo wo shiyoo to omoimasu

I am thinking of studying at home tomorrow instead of going to the library

4. COMPOUND VERBS

Certain verbs can form compound verbs when attached to other verbs.
Examples of such verbs: hajimeru, owaru, sugiru

V-stem + Hajimeru

meaning: To begin/to start to do~ --or-- to begin to be in a certain state

いつ から 日本語 を 習い 始めました か

itsu kara nihongo wo narai hajimemashita ka

When did you start to study Japanese?

V-stem + owaru

meaning: to finish doing~

その 本 を 読み 終わったら、貸し手 ください

sono hon wo yomu owattara, kashite kudasai

When you finish reading the book, please lend it to me

V-stem/adj-stem + sugiru

meaning: to be too much ~, to do something excessively

昨日 飲み すぎて 今日 は 頭 が いたい

Kinoo nomi-sugite kyoo wa atama ga itai

I drank too much yesterday and I have a headache today

5. COMPOUND NOUNS

V-stem + kata

kata as a suffix indicates the way or manner and the phrase corresponds to "how to do ~" or "the way one does ~"

この 辞書 の 使い 方 が よく わかりません

Kono jisho no tsukai kata ga yoku wakarimasen

I do now know how to use this dictionary

6. QUOTED SENTENCES

i. V(pnp) + yoo ni tanomu --- V(pnp) + yoo ni iu

These expressions indicate quoted sentences and are equivalent to "ask someone to do~", "tell someone to do ~"

母 は 弟 に 毎晩 十時 まで に 帰って 来る よう に 言いました

haha wa ootoo ni maiban juuji made ni kaette kuru yoo ni iimashita

My mother told my younger brother to come home by 10 every night

ii. ~to iu / omou / kangaeru / shinjuru, etc

These sentences corresponds to "say/think/consider/believe that ~"

omou, kangaeru, shinjiru take place in the v-te iru form when the subject in the main clause is in the

third person

日本 の 友達 が もう すぐ 香港 へ 行く と 言いました

Nihon no tomodachi ga moo sugu Honkon e iku to iimashita

My friend in Japan said that he is going to Hong Kong soon

7. CONJECTURE

~kamoshirenai indicates conjecture and it corresponds to may~
formation:

verb	V(plain) + kamoshirenai iku --> iku kamoshirenai
i-adj	plain form + kamoshirenai atsui --> atsui kamoshirenai
na-adj	plain form without da + kamoshirenai benri da --> benri kamoshirenai
noun	noun + kamoshirenai sensei --> sensei kamoshirenai

明日 雨 が 降る かもしれない

ashita ame ga furu kamoshirenai

It might rain tomorrow

8. PARTIAL LISTING OF ACTIONS

V-tari v-taru suru is used to enumerate a few actions among others. It means "to do this, and that, and that, etc".

This phrase is formed by adding -ri to the past -ta form

yomu --> yonda --> yondari

taberu --> tabeta --> tabetari

今日 は 家 で 本 を 読んだり テレビ 見たり するつもり です

Kyoo wa uchi de hon wo yondari terebi mitari suru tsumori

Today, I am going to read a book, watch TV and so on, at home

This expression also refers to an alternating repeated action or state and it means "sometimes ~, some other times~"

Adj-tari form is formed by attaching -ri to the plain non past form of i/na-adj

takai --> takakatta --> takakattari

今日 は 一日中 雨 が 降ったり やんだり しました

Kyoo wa ichinichijuu ame ga futtari wandari shimashita

It rained on and off all day today

9. PERMISSION

V+te mo ii (or adj+te mo ii) indicates permission and is interpreted as "one may~" or "it is alright

to~". The phrase is formed by attaching mo ii to the -te form of the verb or adj
nomu --> nonde --> nonde mo ii
neru --> nete --> nete mo ii
furui --> furukute --> furukute mo ii

こ こ で タバコ を 吸 っ て も い い で す か
koko de tabako wo sutte mo ii desu ka
Is it already to smoke? / May I smoke here?

V/adj + nakute mo ii means "it is alright that one does not ~" or "do not have to~"
It is formed by adding -nakute (te form in negative non past plain) + mo ii
taberu --> tabenai --> tabenakute mo ii
iku --> ikanai --> ikanakute mo ii

今 す ぐ に お 金 を 払 わ な く て も い い で す
ima suguni okane wo haranakute mo ii desu
You do not have to pay the money right now

10. PROHIBITION

V/adj -te wa ikenai indicates prohibition and it means "one must not do ~" or "something must not be so and so"

こ こ で タバコ を 吸 っ て は 行 け な い そ う で す
koko de tabako wo sutte wa ikenai soo desu
I heard that one must not smoke here

11. OBLIGATION

The double negative expression V-nakute wa/nakereba ikenai means: one must/one has to do~

今 晩 母 に 電 話 を け な く て は / け な け れ ば い け な い
ima haha ni denwa wo kakenakute wa / kakenakereba ikenai
I have to call my mother tonight

12. EXPERIENCE:

The phrase V-ta (plain past) koto ga aru refers to experience and means "someone has the experience of doing ~, or "someone has done ~ before"

日 本 へ 行 っ た こ と が あ り ま す か
Nihon e itta koto ga arimasu ka
have you ever been to japan?

13. ADVICE

The phrase V-ta hoo ga ii indicates advice and corresponds to "it is better to do ~" or "had better do ~"

雨 が 降り そう だ から、かさ を 持って 行った 方 が いい です
ame ga furi soo da kara, kasa wo mote itta hoo ga ii desu
It looks like it is going to rain, so you had better take an umbrella

The expression V-nai + hoo ga ii corresponds to "it is better to not do ~"

この 辺 は あぶない から 夜 歩かない 方 が いい です よ
kono hen wa abunai kara yoru arukanai hoo ga ii desu yo
It is dangerous in this neighborhood, so you had better not walk at night, you know

VARIOUS:

Idiomatic Expressions

iite kimasu - I will be back/see you later
iite mairimasu - humble equivalent to above - more polite
iite rashai - please go (polite)
iite irashai - more polite than the above version
tadaima - I'm home/we're home
okairinasai - welcome home, welcome back
osore irimasu n'ga? - I'm sorry to bother you, I am sorry to ask you
dochira sama desu ka? - who is this (when answering phone)
Meishi ga gozaimasu ka? - do you have a business card?
kakenaoshite kudasai - redial please, please call again
choto omachi kudasai - please wait, please hold
onamaeru nan to oshaimasu ka? - what is your name? (polite)
shacho ni message yo onegai shimasu - I would like to leave a message
osore irimasu - sorry to bother you

Introducing yourself:

Person + de irashai imasu --> polite/honorific
+ desu --> neutral
+ de gozaimasu --> informal
AK de irashai imasu --. I am AK (when introducing myself to a teacher)

english word + suru -> ways to form verbs

You can form Japanese verbs by adding suru to English verbs

cancel suru - to cancel

order suru - to order

drive suru - to drive

of course these are not original Japanese words and not everyone understands them

What one is good/bad at:

N + に + つよい です = strong _____

N + に + よわい です = weak _____

My forte is **noun**

I am not so good at **noun**

More Counting Words:

ichi ni mae - one order/one portion

一に前 - ichi ni mae

i cho me - first block/street number

ichi go shtchu -> room #1

i pai -> one bowl/cup